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JAPAN.

*Regulations for the medical inspection of ships and for executing the quarantine laws.*YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, *July 19, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose, herewith, for your information, a copy of the recently promulgated, revised, Regulations for the Medical Inspection of Vessels, and for the Execution of the Quarantine Laws in the ports of Japan.

Very respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

THE MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SHIPS.

Notification No. 26 of the department of state for home affairs.

JULY 14, 1899.

Article I. When a vessel arrives at a port where medical inspection is in operation, she shall hoist the flag prescribed by the international code of signals, approach the guardships or the lookout, and be ordered to stop temporarily, after which the following information shall be obtained with regard to the master and each of those on board:

1. The name of the port of exit.
2. The name of any ports of call.
3. Whether there is any person actually suffering from a contagious disease, or whether any person has died of such a disease.
4. Whether on the voyage or during stay in ports of call there has been any case of sickness or death from contagious disease.
5. Whether any communication has been held with a vessel in which there has been a case of sickness or death from contagious disease.

Vessels which are clearly known to be navigating home waters shall not be required to stop, or furnish information, as prescribed in the above clauses.

Art. II. When, in consequence of the roughness of the sea, a ship can not be visited, the above information shall be obtained by the aid of the international code of signals, and, if medical inspection is necessary, the ship shall be required to anchor outside the harbor, and wait until the sea has subsided, after which she shall be visited.

In the event of a ship's disobeying the order to anchor outside of the harbor, or continuing her voyage without regard to the signals, she shall be required to put back, and to furnish the required information or undergo inspection. In such a case, the fact shall be communicated to the office of harbor affairs and to the police station.

A ship arriving after sunset, provided she is not a mail steamer or has no special reason for dispatch, shall be required to anchor outside the harbor, and to furnish the required information or undergo inspection the following morning.

Art. III. In the case of a ship as above coming from a foreign port or from Formosa, written forms as prescribed shall be handed to the master or to one of the officers and they shall be required to fill in the required information. At the same time, the whole or part of the passengers and crew shall be ordered to assemble upon the deck, and, after the written forms have been received, all these persons, as well as the cabins, shall be inspected. Should the inspection reveal nothing unusual, a permit shall be handed to the master or to his representative.

Art. IV. With regard to the ships mentioned above, the following procedure shall be observed:

1. When there is actually on board a person suffering, or a person who has died from a contagious disease, or when there has been a case of illness or death from a contagious disease on the voyage or while in a port of call, the process of disinfection shall be carried out, and the ship be detained, unless the disease is smallpox or scarlet fever.

2. When a ship has sailed from an infected port, or has called at such a port, or has had communication with an infected ship, or when there are doubts as to these points, the process of disinfection shall be carried out, and she shall be required to stop, unless the disease is smallpox or scarlet fever.

3. Vessels coming within the purview of Article VI of the Open Port Regulations need not undergo disinfection.

In the case mentioned in this clause, information shall be given to the harbor office, the custom-house, the post office, and the police.

Art. V. Should a ship belonging to the category of clause 1, Article III, have on board a person suffering from, or the body of a person who has died of, a contagious disease other than those enumerated in Article II of the Regulations for Carrying out Medical Inspection in Open Ports, a report must be sent to the police office of the district.

Art. VI. A passenger or member of the crew who comes into contact with, or who is suspected of having come into contact with, a person suffering from, or the body of a person who has died of, pest, cholera, or yellow fever, shall be required to move to the quarantine station.

Art. VII. In the case of a foreign or native man-of-war, the information detailed in Article I shall be obtained in writing from the commander or the medical officer. Under such circumstances, the usual written form need not be employed nor need a permit be given.

Art. VIII. When a ship of war, foreign or native, falls within the category of the first clause of Article IV, she shall be disinfected, after consultation with her commander.

Art. IX. When ships or articles are disinfected, the following provisions shall be observed:

(Here follow seven clauses setting forth the process of disinfection in detail.)

Art. X. When the passengers or crew of a ship are detained, inspections shall be made from time to time to determine the state of their health, and medical examinations may be carried out should such a course appear necessary.

[Inclosure No. 2.]

Quarantine regulations.

The following regulations for the operation of the quarantine law were issued by the minister for home affairs on July 13:

Article 1. The ports where quarantine shall be enforced are Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki, and Kuchinotsu. When temporary quarantine is enforced at other ports such places shall be indicated by notification.

If it is found necessary to disinfect a vessel which has been subjected to quarantine at the port of Yokohama she shall be taken to Nagahama for that purpose. Any vessel that has been subjected to quarantine at the port of Kuchinotsu shall be taken to Megami for a similar purpose.

Art. 2. The diseases against which quarantine is enforced are cholera, smallpox, scarlet fever, the pest, and yellow fever. When temporary quarantine is enforced with reference to other contagious diseases it shall be indicated by notification.

Article 3. The duration of the detention of a vessel in the case mentioned in No. 1, clause 1, article 6 of the quarantine law, shall be seven days in case of the pest; five days in case of cholera and yellow fever, counting from the time at which disinfection was finished. Provided that in the event mentioned in No. 3 of same the calculation shall commence from the time when a vessel left or passed through an infected district or from the time when facts justified the suspicion that it had been affected by disease.

A vessel which has undergone quarantine or detention by any quarantine station in the Empire and on which no suspicious circumstances have arisen since then shall not be quarantined or detained again.

The names of infected districts shall from time to time be indicated by notification.

Art. 4. Certificates to be given to vessels in accordance with the quarantine law are shown in forms from No. 1 to No. 3 according to the nature of circumstances.

The statement (from master and surgeon) shall be according to Form No. 4.

Art. 5. Patients suffering from contagious diseases, or who are suspected to be suffering from the same, may be accommodated in the isolation rooms attached to a quarantine station.

Art. 6. Passengers and crew of a vessel who have been removed to the detention room of a quarantine station must be detained during the period mentioned in clause 1, article 3, of these regulations. When a contagious disease has broken out among the passengers or crew thus detained, the detention provided for in clause 1, article 3, shall be renewed with regard to the whole or a portion of these persons. Provided the vessel itself shall not be affected by this renewal.

Art. 7. Corpses shall be cremated at an appointed place and the ashes handed over to the person to take charge of them or the master of the vessel or his representative. If there is not anybody to take charge of them, or the master or his representative refuses to take charge of the ashes, they shall be dealt with in accordance with the law relating to the sick and dead in the streets.

When relatives or friends have applied for the delivery of a corpse, it may be handed over in cases where exists no apprehension as to the spread of the disease.

Art. 8. In the case mentioned in article 5 of the quarantine law, a police official shall order the vessel to be brought to the nearest quarantine station. Provided that the master or his representative has made an application, the vessel may be dealt with in accordance with clauses 2 and 3 of this article.

When a police official deems it impossible to bring the vessel to the nearest port where quarantine is to be undergone, or in cases where it is thought that the vessel may be dealt with by other means, he shall order a suitable measure of disinfection to the master and crew without bringing her to the nearest quarantine station. In this case all the expenses shall be borne by the owner of the vessel, the master, or his representative.

In the case mentioned in the foregoing clause, where it is deemed necessary to isolate patients, they may be accommodated at an appointed place, the cost being paid by the patients themselves, the owner or master of the ship or his representative.

Art. 9. Expenses in connection with the disinfection of a vessel shall be collected according to the following rates, provided that this rule is not applicable to Japanese and foreign war ships and vessels belonging to the Japanese army :

EXPENSE OF DISINFECTING A VESSEL.

Under 100 registered tonnage, 10 yen.

Above 100 and under 1,000 registered tonnage, 20 yen.

Above 1,000 and under 2,000 registered tonnage, 30 yen.

Upward of 2,000 tons (additional), 10 yen for every 1,000 tons.

For cargo, 10 sen apiece.

Expense of disinfecting the clothing, luggage, and personal effects of passengers and crew :

First and second class passengers and members of the crew corresponding to them, 1 yen each.

Third-class passengers and members of the crew corresponding to them, 10 sen each.

Art. 10. The amount of expenses to be collected from those who have been removed to a quarantine station shall be fixed by the directors of the quarantine stations with the approval of the minister for home affairs.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULE.

These regulations are not applicable to Japanese junks and fishing boats.

MAURITIUS.

Plague in the island.

PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, *June 29, 1899.*

SIR : Since my last communication, dated 14th instant, reporting the progress and development of the bubonic plague at Port Louis, I now have the honor to further inclose the press reports showing the actual state of affairs here, which have chiefly grown out of the disputes between the legislative council of the Government and the different opinions held by that body and the board of health as to the means to be adopted towards stamping out the plague, and the demands made by the elected members of the council upon the Government in order to allay the consternation and fear that have seized the bulk of the people.

Referring to the third paragraph of my communication of 14th instant, it will be seen that up to the above date the Government and the board of health had refused to accede to the demands of the elected members of the council to have any physiological experiment made of the plague bacillus.

It will be seen from my last communication that I anticipated disorder to come, growing out of the excitement existing among the people. Such disorder has taken place since I forwarded my last dispatch. The